

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جورдан تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الرأي»



PLO disputes Kuwaiti charges

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Monday sharply disputed allegations by Kuwait that it had sent 2,500 supporters into the emirate to "terrorise" Kuwaitis during the Iraqi occupation. The PLO, in a letter to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, said it had been trying to show restraint in operations with Kuwait at the United Nations "despite the barbaric acts perpetrated against our people." Kuwait's U.N. representative Mohammad Abulhasan last week said the PLO had sent to occupied Kuwait some 2,500 people who were deployed at intersections and checkpoints. The PLO's U.N. observer, Nasser Al Kidwa, had previously called for an end to death sentences in Kuwait against alleged collaborators, an issue that has disturbed human rights groups around the world. Mr. Kidwa, in Monday's letter, said the PLO during the occupation had dispatched to Kuwait only 45 officers and soldiers to guard the Palestine embassy and other Palestinian institutions.

Bush to meet Gorbachev in London

WHITE HOUSE (R) — President George Bush will host a working dinner for Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in London on July 17 and 18. The two leaders will discuss the broad range of issues on the agenda. Soviet spokesman Martin Flitwater said in a statement: "The two leaders will meet following the conclusion of the Soviet conference, a summit of the seven major industrialised nations. Mr. Gorbachev has been invited to address members of the group, known as the 'Seven 7', after their meeting and present his case for Western aid and investment to help Soviet economic reform. The Soviet leader has also invited historical meetings with Britain's Prime Minister John Major and Japan's Toshiki Kaifu during his trip. Mr. Bush and Mr. Gorbachev are to hold a formal summit this year to sign a strategic arms reduction treaty to slash both countries long-range nuclear weapons arsenals. The two nations have been unable to reach a final accord, however."

Volume 16 Number 4738

Al al Bayt meeting opens on July 2

AMMAN (I.T.) — Prominent Islamic scholars from the Arab and Islamic world are gathering in Amman to take part in the eighth conference of the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (Al al Bayt Foundation) which will be held at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein. According to an Al al Bayt statement, King Hussein will delegate His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to chair the sessions which will be held between July 2 and 7. The participants are expected to review several studies related to Islamic civilisation in implementation of resolutions and recommendations passed by the Al al Bayt's seventh conference. Apart from reviewing nine studies in Islamic work, the participants will also hold a special session to review a report on Al al Bayt's activities and achievements in the past two years. They will also review a concise report about its activities in the past decade.

Kurds accuse Turkish police of killings

BRUSSELS (R) — Kurdish guerrillas Monday denied responsibility for an ambush last week in which a Turkish mayor and four guards died and accused Turkish police of staging the operation themselves in disguise. Yalcin Kara, mayor of Hizan township in Siirt province near the Iraq border, and the guards were killed on Friday as they were going to work by car. "This carnage was carried out by individuals disguised as guerrillas," said a statement issued in Brussels on behalf of the European section of the National Liberation Front of Kurdistan. It said guerrillas would have been unable to carry out the attack in an exposed spot on a national highway near a police station in broad daylight. "We say the assassination was carried out by the DGS (Turkish special forces)."

Gulf Air resumes flights to Beirut

BAHRAIN (R) — Gulf Air, the airline of Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, flew to Beirut Monday for the first time in almost 16 years. The Gulf News Agency said Gulf Air officials also flew to Beirut to celebrate the reopening of the route, which closed down in September, 1975, shortly after civil war broke out in Lebanon. The airline will fly to Beirut from the Gulf five times a week. Eleven other foreign airlines have resumed flights to Lebanon."

India devalues rupee

NEW DELHI (AP) — India's central bank devalued the rupee by about nine per cent Monday, in a move apparently geared towards negotiating a \$1 billion dollar loan from the International Monetary Fund. The devaluation came as India's 10-day-old government faced a foreign currency crisis which has left the treasury with hard cash to pay for less than one month's imports. The Reserve Bank of India devalued the rupee by 9.5 per cent against the dollar, 9.7 per cent against the yen, 8.7 per cent against the British pound and nine per cent against the German mark.

Muscle magazine names Shamir 'man of the year'

TEL AVIV (R) — A U.S. bodybuilding magazine has named Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, 75, as man of the year, an Israeli spokesman said Monday. But spokesman Avi Pazner said the award was probably more for the diminutive Shamir's prowess in politics rather than athletics. Dan Lame, publisher of Muscle Training Illustrated, told officials he would present the award next week to Mr. Shamir, leader of Israel's most right-wing government. Israel Radio said the award had gone previously to actors Clint Eastwood and Johnny Weissmuller, Ronald Reagan and — in 1985 — then-Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

Lebanese army clashes with Palestinian fighters

KFAR JARRA, Lebanon (R) — Fighting erupted in Lebanon Monday between government troops and Palestinian guerrillas who refused to surrender their stronghold to the army.

Mortars and machineguns opened up near the villages of Salhiyah and Kfar Jarras, six kilometres east of Sidon, a Reuters correspondent said from the scene.

"Mortars are flying overhead and we can hear firing from both sides," the correspondent reported by telephone from an army barracks.

Fighting began after hours of heated negotiations between the army, trying to extend the government's authority over the lawless south, and Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) officials who have 6,000 guerrillas in the area.

Lebanese troops earlier took over the port of Sidon, 40 kilometres south of Beirut, ending militia rule there for the first time since civil war erupted 16 years ago.

But the army ran into repeated snags as its convoys inched into the main PLO bastion in Lebanon.

By evening, military sources said 4,000 reinforcements had been moved in to help deal with the PLO. Witnesses said the guerrillas had also beefed up their forces.

Troops failed to negotiate their way through 'Ain Jarra, where

the PLO holds a base overlooking two Palestinian refugee camps.

"We'll need artillery cover," a soldier in full combat gear told a comrade at the barracks as they waited for orders shortly before the firing began. Troop reinforcements poured into the area.

Military sources said the Palestinians fired mortar bombs at the troops. The army fired back and seized eight four-wheel drive vehicles, three of them loaded with guns.

Defence Minister Michel Al Murr threatened to use force after the army thrust was halted by Palestinian fighters who took to village streets and refused to hand over their bases.

"We wish the operation to be completed peacefully but if the army has to use force to implement the decision it will," he said. He added that the deployment had to be completed by dark.

In the village of Salhiyah, an agreement was reached for the army column to move up the main road and set up checkpoints. But in Kfar Jarras, the army demanded that it take over a PLO base.



PREMIER MEETS JUDICIARY: Prime Minister Taib Masri (second from left) Monday receives Justice Minister Tayseer Kanaan (left) and senior-most judges of the Kingdom in a meeting (see story on page 3)

Iraq says nothing to hide; U.N. inspectors dissatisfied

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — The Iraqi minister in charge of military industries said Monday his country had nothing to hide but U.N. troubleshooters said they had made no progress in gaining access to equipment which could make nuclear weapons.

General Amer Hammoudi Al Saadi, the minister of industry and military industrialisation, told Reuters in an interview: "We just want to come clean. We want everyone to know that we have nothing to hide."

He recalled that President Saddam Hussein had given strict orders that U.N. inspectors be free to see whatever they wanted. "I know the order," he said. "It was 'show them everything they want, real or imagined'."

But one of three senior U.N. officials sent to Baghdad after Iraqi soldiers allegedly prevented the U.N. inspectors from visiting a military site and checking the convoy.

David Kay, an American who is deputy leader of the inspection team, said photographic evidence that the convoy had crates containing equipment for making bomb-grade enriched uranium was irrefutable.

Mr. Kay added that he was taken back to the army base by Iraqi officials Monday but found nothing.

Mr. Blix said the team's two-hour meeting with Mr. Aziz did not go well, raising doubts that a scheduled meeting later Monday with Prime Minister Saddam Hamadi would be held.

The government said that Iran's ambassador, Javid Qorban Ughli, had been summoned to the Foreign Ministry to be warned that his country should stay out of Algeria's internal affairs.

On Saturday, Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, said in Tehran that he hoped Algerians would follow the example of Iranian revolutionaries by establishing an Islamic republic.

The FIS has led four weeks of protests that coincided with the start of campaigning for Algeria's first multiparty parliamentary elections, which were to have been held June 27.

The front claimed election laws favoured President Chadli Benjedid's National Liberation Front (FLN), until 1989 the country's only legal political party.

One commentator said there

Israelis ponder U.S. aid, row over settlement

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel is counting on U.S. aid to house and employ the hundreds of thousands of immigrants pouring in from the Soviet Union. But what if Uncle Sam won't pay?

That's something the average Israeli preferred not to think about until last week. But then came a surprise disclosure from Finance Minister Yitzhak Modai that he has "contingency plans" in case the aid is refused.

Some Israelis fear that Washington will use the aid as a lever for extracting Israeli "concessions" towards the Middle East peace process, such as a freeze on building Jewish settlements in the occupied territories. They say Israel should prepare to go it alone.

Israel wants \$10 billion over the next five years to underwrite loans to pay for accommodating the immigrants. Mr. Modai says that if he doesn't get the money, he will dig into "the pockets of working people," which Israelis take to mean higher taxes and costlier luxury goods.

The result has been a spirited debate among three broad camps: Free-marketeers who would welcome an aid cutoff to force Israel into putting its financial house in order; nationalists, who say the Jewish state cannot shackle its policies to foreign dictates; and bottom-line economists who say that without the aid, the Soviet influx will bankrupt Israel.

The question is whether we should accept the United States standing up and saying, folks, your state of Israel is dependent on us," said former Finance Minister Yigal Hurwitz, voicing the "nationalist" argument in one of several radio debates.

"If we stand up and say we don't agree, they will think twice before giving us orders again," he said.

In another radio debate, economist Sefer Plotzker said an aid cutoff would trim living standards by up to one-quarter.

He foresees "very high taxes on imports" and a ban on exploiting foreign currency.

"We may be unable to buy a car, a video..." he said.

Even then, he said, Israel would only raise enough money

(Continued on page 2)

CORRECTION

DUKE to transcribing errors, and editorial oversight, the text of His Majesty King Hussein's interview with the Japanese newspaper Yomiuri Shimbun, which appeared in the Jordan Times yesterday, contained a number of mistakes that are corrected below for the record.

In describing the plight of refugees from Kuwait, the King said: "Nonetheless, we have received back something like 250,000 people, some of whom have been working for the Gulf governments three generations or so. Many of them did not leave through Jordan." In the text the last sentence was misquoted as "a very huge leap through Jordan."

In defining the U.N. role in the proposed peace conference, the King said: "We would like the moral weight of the world with us. We would like, certainly, if it is not under U.N. auspices, in terms of the U.N. being involved, (to have the process) in any event end up with the guarantees of the Security Council which are implicit in 242 and 338." The words "in any event" were misprinted in the text to read "many events".

In answering a question on Israeli attitudes on the peace process, the King was quoted as saying he had been "in Petra, and made some statements." In fact, he had said: "I have been in 'touch', and made some statements."

The accord was announced early Monday by three EC peace envoys after last-ditch talks to stop the Balkan state sliding into civil war.

But Slovenian President Milan Kucan told a news conference: "I doubt the success of any agreement unless there is international control, including military observers."

"No one has control of the army. If there is no control of the

Slovenian refusal to relinquish 'borders' stalls peace proposal

LJUBLJANA, Yugoslavia (Agencies) — The breakaway republic of Slovenia said Monday it would not relinquish control of its borders to the federal government, potentially jeopardising an agreement aimed at stopping hostilities.

Federal troops began clashing with Slovene defence forces last week after the republic seized its borders and asserted its independence.

Slovene Radio reported air raid sirens in some cities and said that federal air forces helicopters and jets were flying low over some cities in the republic.

The peace accord signed by the two sides on Aug. 2, will stay in place until Iraq complies.

Industry Minister Saadi said Iraq's nuclear research programme was purely civilian. "Many countries have such a programme," he added.

He said that before the Gulf war the government aimed to have two nuclear power stations by the year 2,000.

army, the agreements have no meaning," he declared.

Croatian President Franjo Tudjman suggested that U.N. peacekeeping forces should be set up to help to separate warring ethnic factions.

Croatia, which declared independence last week with the northern Alpine republic of Slovenia, fears a new explosion of violence.

In an ominous sign, Croatian officials said the police chief in the town of Osijek was shot dead on Monday morning and shooting broke out in nearby Borovo Selo.

The peace accord was finalised amid a flurry of efforts to avert civil war after the Yugoslavia and Croatia army should suspend further steps to implement their independence for three months.

The moratorium was intended to give politicians a breathing space to work out new constitutional arrangements between Yugoslavia's six republics and two provinces.

Slovenia and Croatia, the weakest and most westernised republics, want to break ties gradually with the rest of the country, spelling an end of the federation after 72 troubled years.

A German Chancellor Helmut Kohl Monday demanded the immediate withdrawal of Yugoslav federal forces from Slovenia and Croatia and threatened to halt economic aid unless the crisis is resolved peacefully.

Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher met with visiting U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to discuss Yugoslavia and later flew to Belgrade.

Arab ministers to meet in Kuwait July 9

CAIRO (R) — Foreign Ministers from Egypt, Syria and the Gulf states will meet in Kuwait on July 9 in a renewed attempt to settle differences over the composition of the Gulf defence force they agreed to set up in Damascus in March.

Arab diplomats and military experts say the future of the force must now be in doubt and they do not expect the Kuwait meeting will put the controversy to rest.

"The situation is becoming more confused, messier with time, not better," said a military expert who asked not to be named.

"I don't believe the ministers will reach an agreement on how large the Arab force will be ... if

at this point there is going to be an Arab force with Egypt and Syria."

"The most they will do is agree to meet again," said an Arab diplomat.

Diplomats in Kuwait said last month that the eight countries had finally agreed the force would have 26,000 men, including a brigade of 3,000 men from each of Syria and Egypt.

In Cairo, Arab and Egyptian experts say otherwise. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak agreed in principle during a visit to Kuwait last month to send 12,000 to 15,000 men and Syria was to contribute a 10,000-strong force, they say.

"The Kuwaitis went back on

this agreement after he (Mr. Mubarak) left," said one expert.

"They said let us discuss figures later and study further for the July 9 meeting."

Kuwait's defence minister said in an interview last week his country wanted a symbolic Arab force of about 5,000 men to guarantee security in the Gulf.

In Cairo, Arab and Egyptian experts say otherwise. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak agreed in principle during a visit to Kuwait last month to send 12,000 to 15,000 men and Syria was to contribute a 10,000-strong force, they say.

"The Kuwaitis went back on

line with the march agreement signed by Egypt, Syria and the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states — Oman, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

Egypt and Syria took part in the U.S.-led campaign which pushed Iraqi forces out of Kuwait in February.

The experts said Cairo argued that 3,000 or 50,000 Egyptian soldiers alongside a GCC force would not be enough to repel an Iraqi invasion similar to that of last August.

Arab diplomats say Oman, however, wants Egyptian and Syrian troops to be flown into the area only when needed.

Ethiopian government talks delayed

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Round-table talks on forming a new transitional government in Ethiopia were delayed on Monday as leaders from dozens of political factions held last-minute negotiations.

Security was tight in the capital and scores of heavily-armed fighters of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), which overthrew the government of Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam in May, guarded the city centre.

Diplomats said that the talks were expected to start later on Monday but that would leave little time for hard business on the first day.

Political sources with close contacts with the EPRDF said the northern-based guerrilla group was set to dominate an 81-seat state council, due to be appointed at the conference.

The source said the EPRDF would take 34 seats in the coun-

cil, with 12 allocated to the Oromo Liberation Front (OLF), a rebel group seeking self-determination for the Oromo people, Ethiopia's largest ethnic group.

They said three further seats had been set aside for the Afar Liberation Front (ALF), representing an ethnic group living in a strategic belt along the Red Sea coast.

Other political and armed factions were likely to be restricted to two seats each, the sources added.

The EPRDF says it wants a broad-based leadership, ethnically and politically said.

Mr. Zenawi said Saturday the EPRDF would raise a four-point agenda for the conference, including the future of Eritrea.

Confusion reigned in the capital as security forces kept central areas cordoned off and international observers and foreign jour-

nalists scrambled for transport and security passes.

Hundreds of delegates and observers descended on Addis Ababa for the conference, expected to last three days.

The permanent members of the United Nations Security Council — the United States, the Soviet Union, China, France and Britain — are all represented.

So are the European Community, the Organisation of African Unity and the U.N. Economic Commission for Africa.

The chief U.S. observer, Herman Cohen, assistant secretary of state for African affairs, was seen racing around the capital in a white Cadillac, escorted by a convoy of EPRDF fighters.

The EPRDF has accused former members of Col. Mengistu's ruling party and ex-soldiers of sabotage in the city in recent weeks, and is making a strong show of force.

Correction

(Continued from page 1)

destruction weapons in the region, the King said he hoped "that there will be no need in the future for such weapons to be here...." The word "such" was missing in the Yomiuri transcript.

In recalling the history of the Gulf crisis, the King said: "I was not involved. I did not know. I knew there was a problem when I heard about it at the Arab summit in Baghdad in front of all Arab leaders. But beyond that people kept it away from us. I went just a couple of days before the failure of the conference in Jeddah to Baghdad and then to Kuwait and I sensed that the atmosphere was not a comfortable one there. And I came back and I warned something has to be done to ensure that the meeting

in Jeddah succeed. I did not expect this war, and I was against it entirely."

The Yomiuri transcript of the interview, a copy of which the newspaper made available to the Jordan Times on Sunday, took this paragraph out of context, and it contained a number of transcription errors.

In commenting on his appointment of Mr. Taber Massi as prime minister, the King had this to say: "... I believe that he is relatively a young prime minister who has had a lot of experience." In the Jordan Times text the word "had" erroneously appeared as "ahead".

The Jordan Times regrets the errors and apologises for any inconvenience they may have caused His Majesty and its readers.

Israelis ponder U.S. aid

(Continued from page 1)

to absorb half the immigrants now expected. And meanwhile, austerity would cause recession and unemployment, which would deter immigration.

The moment the line at the employment office in Tel Aviv is much longer than the line for sausages in Moscow — that's the moment when Jews will stop coming," he said.

In their early years of statehood, Israelis endured austerity to accommodate waves of immigration. But 40 years later, they have grown used to creature comforts.

Professor Ezra Zohar, a staunch free-market advocate, says Israel could pay its own way if the government cut its spending.

"It wastes huge sums because it by 'scorn' from the U.S. government and world Jewry," he said, using a Yiddish word for

Cadging, or mooching. The only way to change that is "to stop the U.S. support," he says.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, arguing the loan guarantees and issues such as settlements are entirely unconnected, says the United States, having helped open the gates of the Soviet Union to Jews, has a moral duty to help settle them.

But Israelis are aware that the United States already faces huge aid demands both at home and from former communist countries, and they worry that if Mr. Shamir doesn't bend, Washington will hit back.

The Rafah, a former diplomat at the Israeli embassy in Washington, says he senses that Mr. Shamir is aware of the danger and will ultimately do what is needed by September, when Israel must present its aid request to Washington.

Moelleman leaves Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — German Economy Minister Juergen Moelleman left Tehran Monday after promising to review a German decision to halt work on a nuclear power plant under construction in southern Iran, Tehran Radio reported.

Mr. Moelleman arrived in the Iranian capital Saturday with 110 prominent business executives hoping to pick up lucrative contracts for Iranian reconstruction projects.

But Tehran has apparently linked the contracts to the fate of the nuclear plant near the port of Bushehr.

Iran's economy minister, Mohsen Nourbakhsh, told Mr. Moelleman Saturday that trade relations with Germany could expand "with the removal of some obstacles," the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported in a dispatch monitored in Nicosia.

Qadhafi smashes Khartoum prison gate in symbolic act

KHARTOUM (AP) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi joined Sudan's military leader atop a bulldozer Monday to smash the gate of the country's largest prison on the second anniversary of his military coup on Sunday, said the Kobar prison had become a symbol of injustice and he would release all 1,300 inmates, including political detainees.

The prison in Khartoum north, across the Blue Nile from the Sudanese capital, housed former Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi, who was government Gen. Bashir overthrew in 1989. Gen. Bashir released Mr. Mahdi earlier this year.

Gen. Bashir's deputy, Major General Al Zubair Mohammad Saleh, told the ceremony on Monday Kobar symbolised British oppression and destroying it showed Sudan was truly independent.

"The move is symbolic," Col. Qadhafi had told them earlier. "It rings the bell for the dawn of a new era, an era of democracy and siding with freedom," Lieutenant General Bashir, celebrating the second anniversary of his military coup on Sunday, said the Kobar prison had become a symbol of injustice and he would release all 1,300 inmates, including political detainees.

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He added this would be "on condition that the deal would include Israeli army missing and men being held by terrorists," he said.

The Foreign Affairs Committee report was compiled after

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Premier pledges to facilitate Judiciary work

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Taher Al Massri said Monday that the government was determined to facilitate the work of the judicial authorities so that each citizen can be assured of his rights.

"The government plans to offer the courts further administrative facilities so that the Jordanian judiciary can carry out its work with all integrity," said the prime minister during a visit to the Court of Appeal and the Higher Court of Justice.

Mr. Massri met with the heads of the two courts and their assistant judges and discussed ways of improving judiciary work in general.

"Developing the work of the judiciary means the government should exert all possible efforts to provide facilities in terms of premises and in upgrading courts systems," the prime minister said.

Ministry, RJ agree to work jointly to encourage tourism

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Tourism and the national air carrier, Royal Jordanian (RJ) have reached agreement on a plan to stimulate the tourism industry in the Kingdom. The plan will be implemented within a national framework that encompasses the cooperation of various concerned institutions.

The two sides discussed coordination matters related to efforts for boosting tourism through a joint plan and they have reached consensus on some points that will be implemented in the near future, according to RJ's Chief Executive Officer Husein Abu Ghazaleh.

Speaking after a meeting with Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Abdul Karim Al Kabariti, Mr. Abu Ghazaleh said that the two sides are in full agreement that the plan should aim at creating an appropriate touristic environment by increasing tourist attractions and encouraging people to invest more in tour-related projects.

He said that boosting the tour-

ism industry would also be implemented through an intensification of activities designed to market Jordan in Arab and foreign countries.

The two sides, he said, have agreed that the plan should also aim at motivating international tourism organisations to offer regular tours to Jordan.

A statement following the meeting quoted Mr. Kabariti as saying that his ministry was giving due concern to the tourism industry which plays a major role in reducing the deficit in the country's balance of trade by ensuring revenues to the treasury.

By promoting tourism Jordan aims at developing economic and social life in the Kingdom and enhancing Jordan's cooperation and understanding with the nations of the world, Mr. Kabariti said.

He said that his ministry would implement directives contained in His Majesty King Hussein's letter to the new government which gives due attention to the tourism sector.

JNRCS volunteer dies

AMMAN (J.T.) — One of the first founders of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS), Najeh Al Haj Fouz Al Nabaisi (Um Walid), passed away in Amman at the age of 85.

The late Mrs. Najeh served, until her death, as head of the JNRCS's women's branch which operates Al Hajah Hospital and the typing and sewing training

centres run by the society. She also served as an active member of the JNRCS's Executive Committee and never missed a committee meeting until her death two days ago, according to JNRCS Vice President Dr. Mohammad Hadid. In fact, he said, Mrs. Najeh attended the last Executive Committee meeting just a fortnight ago and participated in the discussions.

He said that the JNRCS's women's branch which operates Al Hajah Hospital and the typing and sewing training

CORRECTION

In Monday's Jordan Times story about a Roman Temple on Amman Citadel Hill, the information was erroneously attributed to Dr. Mohammad Najjar. It should have read Mohammad Al-Najjar. The restoration programme is financed by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and not UNDP as reported by the Jordan News Agency, Petra. The Jordan Times regrets the mistake.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

★ An exhibition of paintings and sculptures by Showai Shukri, Mohammad Al-Jalal and Riqq Al-Razzaz at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation 10 a.m. — 5 p.m.

Exhibition of paintings by Maher Al-Sa'adat at Alfa Art Gallery, Insurance Building, 1st Circle.

Ceramics exhibition by Margaret Tadros and Naja Amr at the Spanish Cultural Centre.

LECTURE

Lecture entitled "The Jordan-German Seed Project" by Dr. Nezar Hadid and Mr. R.J. Howell of the Genetic Institute — 7:30 p.m.

Prince Hassan says trans-national understanding is important for solving region's problems

MALTA (J.T.) — An understanding of the different cultures and ideologies of the Middle East and the Mediterranean states is needed to solve the "trans-national" and "inter-cultural" problems facing the areas, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has said at the Conference on Economic Cooperation in the Mediterranean and the Middle East.

Prince Hassan called for a greater and deeper understanding of the cultural barriers which prevent cooperation in shared problems. "What is needed is a broadly defined security concept that addresses the interaction between people, resources-environment and cultural identity," Prince Hassan said through an official who delivered the address.

"We have to work together to evolve an intellectual hinterland or a common language for tackling constructively our common problems."

In his speech to the conference, organised by the Aspen Institute — Italia, Prince Hassan reaffirmed Jordan's proposal for a

regional conference to address the problems of the Middle East. Such an approach should be constructed in the form of a "matrix" that would allow for an analysis of specific issues within the broad working concept of regional problems, Prince Hassan said. Cooperation between participants at the conference, he said, should be the key working ingredient in addressing the specific issues. "I firmly believe that through operationalising this type of analysis we can effectively promote a process for security and cooperation in our region," Prince Hassan said.

Of special importance to Jordan is the need to address the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, he said. The consequences of the Gulf war, with the mass move of 200,000 Palestinians-Jordanians from the Gulf to Jordan, place a heavy human and economic burden on the Kingdom.

"The resolution of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict will diffuse the potentially explosive demographic situation confront-

Swindler makes JD 30,000 before being apprehended

By Ahmad Kreishan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A man varying posing as a doctor, a government official and a West Bank citizen, willing to help students, has been apprehended by police in Amman after swindling 20 people.

The man, identified by the police only as KH, a 35-year-old, has succeeded in amassing JD 30,000, from embezzlement and fraud, with the help of several accomplices, according to Prosecutor General Ahmad Jabalieh.

Posing as a West Bank citizen willing to offer students services connected with their relatives and parents in the West Bank, the impostor managed to swindle a good sum of money from his victims with the help of a number of people who supplied him with information about students, the prosecutor general said.

Mr. Jabalieh said that the impostor, who has been impersonating various people since 1987, once posed as an engineer at the Ministry of Public Works and succeeded in giving a jeweller in Amman three false cheques for a number of gold pieces he had bought from him.

One of the victims was a man whose wife had been admitted to

the Zarqa government hospital where the impostor, posing as a specialist, succeeded in obtaining JD 1,000 from the husband for arranging for the wife's treatment for cancer.

In another case, the impostor claimed that he wanted to sell his car, which actually belonged to his friend, and succeeded in getting JD 3,000 in advance for the car.

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KLM ROYAL DUTCH AIRLINES

will resume with immediate effect 2 flights per week in joint cooperation with Cyprus Airways. KLM operate worldwide to 150 stations in over 80 countries. KLM are currently undergoing major restructuring of network and organisation to improve profitability. From their European base within the European Community, KLM are building a global network together with key world-partners. Therefore KLM have already major share holdings in Northwest Airlines, ALM Antillean Airlines, Transavia, Martinair, Air Littoral, KLM Cityhopper and Air-UK.

KLM require for immediate appointment

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Jordan, Libya call for an end to inter-Arab differences

AMMAN (J.T.) Jordanian and Libyan officials Monday called for speedy measures to be taken to end differences among Arab states and for opening a new chapter in inter-Arab relations in the wake of the Gulf crisis.

The calls came from the Secretary General of Tripoli-based World Islamic Dawa Society, Dr. Mohammad Ahmad Al Sharif, who is on a visit to Jordan and Foreign Minister Abdullah Ensour and Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Abdul Latif Arabyat.

"Extremism and radicalism should be tackled by democratisation and freedom of expression," Prince Hassan said. "Imaginative approaches to arms control can promote security while at the same time diverting hundreds of billions of dollars towards socio-economic development," he added. "In conclusion it can be said that the problem facing us today is to understand each other from one another's perspective," the Prince said adding that the endeavours of a regional conference are "instrumental for evolving that lost objectivity or common language that lies at the heart of multicultural heritage of the Mediterranean world's crossroads."

Dr. Sharif lauded Jordan's national stand and its continued call for unity among Arab ranks.

Dr. Sharif, who arrived here Sunday on a three-day visit to Jordan, discussed Arab affairs with Dr. Arabyat who referred to the common dangers and challenges facing the Arab nation.

"Jordan seeks unity of Arab ranks and support from its sister states in its endeavours to safeguard national interests," he said.

Dr. Arabyat referred to the inhuman practices against the Jordanians and Palestinians in Kuwait, expressing hope that efforts by Arab countries will succeed in putting an end to injustices which he said do not reflect the spirit of Islam.

"Arab states must open a new chapter in their relations designed to help the Arabs attain their common goals," the minister said.

Dr. Sharif is also here to take

part in the general conference of the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (Al Al Bay Foundation) which will open Tuesday under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein.

Apart from attending the conference, Dr. Sharif will also hold talks with Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Raef Nijem and Al Al Bay President Dr. Nasreddin Al Assad to discuss means of bolstering ties between Jordanian and Libyan Islamic societies.

In an arrival statement Sunday, Dr. Sharif paid tribute to the strong ties binding Jordan and Libya. During the visit he said he would discuss with Jordanian officials the implementation of an executive programme for a Libyan-Jordanian agreement designed to help propagate Islamic education and joint projects related to that programme.

Water from the Wala river to be pumped into Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) will in the coming two weeks embark on an experimental water pumping process from Wala water springs, near the town of Madaba, about 40 kilometres south of Amman, in order to help meet the growing need of water supplies in the Amman region during the summer season.

The decision was taken to ease pressure on the governorates of Mafraq, Zarqa and Irbid whose water resources were partially pumped to the capital, Mr. Hiyari said. Other water springs that have been supplying water to Amman are located at Azraq, Duleil, Swaqa and Qatraneh.

WAJ said last April that the water authority last year pumped a total of 75 million cubic metres of water to Amman residents and that 55 per cent of this amount came from the artesian wells in the Amman region.

Referring to the pollution of water in the King Talal Dam, Mr. Kawar said that a meeting would soon be held between the ministries of water and industry and trade to study the case of each separate factory within the Zarqa River Basin in order to determine the causes of the pollution and to find proper solutions for the problem.

He said that the government was keen on finding solutions to the pollution of surface and underground water resources.

The minister said his department was also eager to back industrial production in Jordan and boost the national economy provided that should not be at the expense of water pollution and the destruction of crops.

no have sufficient time to complete its study of the situation and had not taken into consideration all technical matters and laboratory tests.

A group of 21 specialists from the ministries of water, health, municipal and rural affairs as well as the University of Jordan and the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) had prepared the initial report which was submitted to the government.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
Established 1975

جريدة عربية مستقلة تصدر باللغة الإنجليزية من الأردن

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University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Faximile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.
Subscription and advertising rates are available from the
Jordan Times advertising department.

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HIS MAJESTY King Hussein once again reiterated his vision of what he would like Jordan to be. In an interview with the Japanese newspaper Yomiuri Shimbun this week, the King said he wanted Jordan to be "an example" of democracy, free thought and cohesion. His Majesty emphasised that the "challenge before us is greater than it has ever been" and that the people of Jordan, regardless of where they originally come from, must put their minds and hearts together. That is why, the King said, he has chosen Mr. Taher Al Masri as "a young prime minister" who has "a good team with him." The King went further by saying that Jordanians should retain the best of Arab and Muslim tradition and offer it to the world.

The King has been guiding the country through most turbulent times in the world's most explosive region. It is in no small measure due to his vision and leadership that Jordan has one of the best records in the region on human rights, on the rights of women and children and on openness to the world around us. However, Jordanians, inspired by their leadership, have always yearned for more; and they certainly deserve it. When the country opted for democracy in 1989 many conservatives and opportunists held on to an old alibi: Jordanians are not ready for democracy. But our people over the last two years have proved the reactionaries wrong. Elections were held in the best of traditions, parliament was elected and convened, and it has played well by democratic rules and norms. The press, and the Jordanian media generally, has tried very hard to be responsible, informative and progressive and has largely succeeded in its initial mission. Despite this came the draft law of press and publications, currently being read by journalists and officials after being distributed by the Ministry of Information, which does not faithfully represent the new era or spirit of democracy, openness and progressiveness. It is still premature to dwell on the different articles of the proposed law. However, an initial reading, with press laws in developed societies in mind, leaves us with an uneasy feeling about it. The law is replete with limitations and restrictions that make the process of free thought and free exchange of ideas look indeed incomplete and lacking. The right of the individuals to express themselves, a right at the heart of constitutional democracy, is greatly curtailed. While the constitution states that "every Jordanian has the right to freely express his or her opinion through speech, writing, images and all the means of expression," the draft press and publications law imposes so many restrictions, mainly through licensing of newspapers and publishing houses and at later stages, that it becomes a fundamental infringement on the right of the individual, which is the basic building block of every society. The right of citizens to express themselves freely is a sacred one. Suppression of speech is anathema to democracies, and we hope that this democracy which we are pursuing is not a tribal one.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

The Arabs consider French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas' visit as an important step towards the achievement of peace in the Middle East, and his talks with King Hussein an expression of France's desire to see a just and durable peace prevailing in the region, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily. The paper said that the Arabs demand the implementation of the international legitimacy and an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict, but for this to be achieved the Arabs do not require thousands of tanks and planes and rockets to be massed in the region. The paper said that the U.N. Security Council can take various measures to see the Arab rights restored and Israeli forces evacuating the occupied Arab territories. Jordan has always called for the implementation of the international legitimacy and has never despaired over the possibility of reaching a political settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict, the paper noted. Jordan will remain committed towards peace despite the fact that the United States is still adopting a double standard in dealing with world issues, the paper continued. But the paper asked what would Europe and the western nations at large do should Israel continue to remain intransigent and refuse to implement the international legitimacy?

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily said that the health and medical services in the Kingdom were deteriorating as the time passes, and hospitalisation services are not sufficient for all patients, a situation which calls for speedy action represented in the application of a comprehensive health insurance plan that can benefit all citizens.

Mohammad Ibrahim Daoud says that the Prime Minister Mr. Taher Al Masri has noted in a meeting last week that the health services have reached the red line, and this is an urgent matter which causes constant concern to the Jordanian public and the government alike. The writer notes that large numbers of people congest the health centres and the government hospitals especially Al Bashir Hospital in Amman but they do not receive proper attention. The rising prices of medicines, the growing number of patients and the latest increase in the rate of charges by private doctors and other factors are contributing to a further deterioration in the level of medical services to the public, the writer notes. The only practical and proper solution for this problem the writer says, is the application of a comprehensive health insurance scheme that can deal with the problem and save the Jordanian citizens a lot of suffering.

Rethinking the Middle East: Post-Gulf war questions

By Professor Kamal Nafaa

The following is a text of an address made by the author at a conference organised by the National Association of Arab Americans on the Middle East after the Gulf war, held in Los Angeles on April 30, 1991. Dr. Kamel Nafaa is professor of philosophy at Fullerton College, southern California.

SADDAM Hussein may or may not stay in power, but the forces that he unleashed, the issues he generated, the consequences of his invasion of Kuwait, the destruction of both Kuwait and Iraq, are fundamental issues that profoundly altered the political map of the Middle East and the fortunes and misfortunes of so many countries and countless of millions of human beings.

We Arab-Americans and concerned Americans of good will have the duty and responsibility to analyse, formulate, and recommend steps and insight to gain a deeper and better understanding of the recent conflict and its implications.

I shall touch briefly on some of the fundamental issues generated by the recent conflict that I believe will have a strong impact on the making of the New Middle East.

This is a conflict that profoundly split not only the Arab governments, but the Arab people — even members of the same family.

This is a conflict that shattered many myths about Arab unity, the "strategic alliance" between Israel and the United States.

This is a conflict that displaced millions of people in the Arab World and deprived millions of their source of livelihood.

This is a conflict that sharpened the perception, speculation, the possibility of:

1. Democratisation in the Arab World.

2. The rise of Islam as a political force.

3. The decline or collapse of Arab nationalism.

4. The fate of the Palestinian movement for self determination.

5. The seriousness, or lack of it for an American initiative to settle the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

6. Will we again see the return of the Palestinian to the Gulf?

7. Can the split in the Arab World be healed or reconciled?

8. Is democracy really possible in the Arab World? Is Islam and democracy compatible?

9. Can democracy thrive and develop in an area of deep frustrations of severe economic and social

problems?

10. What do we make of the Bush administration pronouncements about the Middle East and their actions or lack of?

11. What is meant by the New World Order? Is it Pax Americana? Is it an era of regenerated U.N.?

12. How can we make sense of the contradictory and conflicting forces in the Arab World?

13. Did America win the war but perhaps lost the peace?

These and many other issues will be haunting us and I hope my colleagues will shed some light on these challenges.

Religion is one of the most important components of life in the Middle East.

Islam has provided Arab culture with its peculiar and particular character whenever it was established and spread. Islam, faith of the vast majority of Arabs, is more than just a religion. It is the focal point of Arab society for Muslims and non-Muslims alike, permeating that culture at every level:

Political, social, economic as well as private.

The Arab system of government, Arab behaviour, Arab values, Arab ethics are firmly bound to the Islamic religion.

Fortunes of Arab success or failure, Arab strength or weakness, are bound to conditions of the Islamic religion. Whenever Islam was flourishing, Arab civilisation and might abounded with vitality, creativity, and innovation and visa versa. Equally, when Islam and the Arabs were weak, Islam was reduced to beliefs transmitted blindly and religious laws and statutes imposed unwise.

Historically, there has been a strong and positive correlation between Arab-Islamic strength and tolerance, openness, creativity, and on the other hand intolerance, decadence, and stagnation during periods of weakness and defeat; when Arab fortunes and declined.

Though secularism is an essential component of modern Arab nationalism, and though secularism and religion are inherently incompatible, yet there is a peculiar and organic relationship between Arab nationalism and Islam.

This peculiarity manifested itself during the Gulf crisis when Saddam Hussein, the leader of a secular Arab nationalist movement and ideology (Al Baath) invoked Islam as the spiritual impulse of Arab nationalism. His attempt failed and contradictions between faith and nationalism became quite apparent.

The failure of Arab nationalism as a guiding and fighting

ideology has led to the rise of Islam as a substitute force and ideology in the Arab World. "Islam is the solution" is a slogan sweeping the Middle East and the recent elections in Jordan and Algeria is an indication that Islamic political groupings are scoring major victories.

The defeat of Iraq, the defeat of the secular ideology of the Al Baath political party in its confrontation with the West, will lead to the rise and spread of Islamic fundamentalism in the whole region, and we will have Islamic republics in several countries of the Middle East.

I fear the rise of religious states whether they are Christian, Jewish, or Muslim. Religious states by their very nature are closed, dogmatic and fanatical.

A vigorous attachment to religion is an attachment to the past which leads us not to pay attention to the present. History has taught us that defeat is the fate of all who attempt to fight the present with the past.

If religion regains predominance in the new order of the Middle East, coupled with the rejection of secularism, modernisation, and pluralism, I am afraid we will be entering a new dark age.

There is no alternative for the Arab people if they wish to survive and triumph in this battle, which is the source and axis of all battles, there is no alternative but to become rationalists. Through rationalism, they will understand that their first problem is their cultural and mental backwardness and the importance of believing in truth and reason, open up to what is good no matter where it comes from, and critically examine their conditions.

Openness to what is good no matter where it comes from was a characteristic of the golden age of Arab-Muslim civilisation when the Arabs assimilated, integrated, and absorbed the best in the traditions of the countries they conquered and ruled.

The tragedy of the Gulf war should demonstrate to us the positive elements of rationalism and virtues of the liberated and organised mind.

Contemporary Arab society has reached a tragic stage of moral and spiritual bankruptcy. The collapse of the Arab League is a good example.

The future belongs to those who deserve it and the Arabs must join the modern world. By joining the modern world, I mean first the capacity to treat the individual Arab person with dignity and respect — I mean the sanctity of the individual.

The destruction of Kuwait and Iraq demonstrated the utter disregard of the worthiness of the individual human life in our contemporary culture. The Arab masses are tools to feed the egos and ambitions of their leaders.

Talk about freedom abounds in our Arab societies but the real meaning of freedom eludes most of our current concerns.

By freedom I mean 1) individuals are responsible to a great extent for their own destiny, 2)

that man is an end rather than a means, this means that man is the highest value and that all institutions including government exist to serve the individual and expand his freedoms, and 3) that good and evil are rooted in man's nature and the short comings of the social order or system. Morality is not divine revelation.

Human freedom implies that man is a rational being capable of determining events, rather than events being determined by divine intervention. God and the angels did not intervene to save Saddam Hussein from certain defeat.

By rationalism I mean that the world of nature is the only real world, man is the aim of existence, reason is the distinctive mark of man and the avenue through which he arrives at the truth and discovers reality. Reason is conducive to doubt and doubt is essential for critical thinking which we need badly in the new phase of Middle Eastern reconstruction, rehabilitation, and reconciliation.

Somebody might ask the question why am I emphasising the abstract, the theoretical, the academic. My reply is that man is what he thinks and what you think determines what you do. This applies to individuals, groups, and nations. Thought is the foundation of action. In the Middle East we need more rational, scientific thought and outlook and less mythical and poetic language where truth and objectivity are submerged in self-deception and self-delusion.

What the Middle East needs in the coming years is an intellectual revolution similar to the one that swept Europe before and after the French Revolution.

II. The dimension of militarisation

The Middle East arms race is out of control. It has its roots in the Arab-Israeli dispute as well as in the intra-Arab rivalry.

The Middle East, with less than 3 per cent of the world population, accounts for more than 8 per cent of the world's military spending. Governments here spend in excess of \$350 annually per person — three times the world average — for military purposes. The Middle East countries account for 42 per cent of the world's arms imports. These huge expenditures have turned the Middle East into the world's largest arms bazaar.

The Bush administration is vigorously pushing foreign arms sales. We have a multibillion dollar package of high tech weapons for five Gulf allies being promoted, government-backed loans for defence exports, strong State Department support that these new arms deals are in the national interest.

The Arabs had dreams and resentments. Dreams of a strong unified Arab nation. Resentments over the betrayal of European and American powers and frustrations over the continued Israeli occupation of the West Bank, Southern Lebanon, and the Golan Heights. They dream of a leader who would set history

right again. It was Gamal Abd Al Nasser of Egypt three decades ago, it was Saddam Hussein in 1990.

Saddam not only annexed Kuwait but annexed the dreams and resentments of many of the Palestinians who thought they found in him the "Great Liberator." In the Iraqi leader, despite many lingering doubts, ignoring his brutal past, they saw in him the instrument of redemption and salvation. A second Nasser with teeth.

To many Arabs, the conquest of Kuwait represented by dawn of a new age, a death blow to the old order. Saddam struck a responsive chord among the Palestinians with his threats and bravado. The sun had risen again over the old impasse and the Palestinians were looking for deliverance at the hands of a leader who threatened to hit Israel with chemical weapon, to torch "half of the country." The crowd on the West Bank and Gaza did not know exactly what the binary chemical weapons was but they assumed it was a weapon of wonder that would bring the invincible Israel to heel.

Moreover, Saddam sought to speak to the Arab masses, to appeal to their sense of deprivation and relative to the Kuwaits and Saudis. To many Palestinians and Arab intellectuals Saddam Hussein in the embodiment of Arab frustrations, resentments, dreams, and deprivations. It is equally true that his conquest of Kuwait, its destruction and tooling, his deploymen

of the Iraqi treasury on senseless wars with Iran and the West, his past and recent brutality against his people, belie the posturing that he is the new Saladin, the embodiment of the anguish of the Arab soul.

Though Saddam Hussein betrayed the trust, hopes, and dreams of the Arab masses by his miscalculations and primitive thinking and diplomacy, the issues of injustice are still awaiting fair and just solution.

As Arab-Americans of good will this is an area where we can and should exercise some influence. It is becoming increasingly clear not only to us but the bulk of the American public that the outstanding issue in the Middle East must be resolved and resolved soon. That the festering Palestinian-Israeli conflict must be solved with fairness and the New World order, with the resurgence of the U.N., would be a distant dream unless the U.N. and the U.S. bring the same resolution, determination, concerted action to the Palestinian question as they did to the Kuwaiti situation. The real new challenge of the U.N. is the challenge of Palestine. It is the testing ground of the hope of the U.N.

Problems without solutions

By Dr. Abdul Rahim Malhas

IN the Arab World, we have many problems. For a better understanding of these problems, the following is an attempt at classifying them into more comprehensible and manageable categories.

1. Problems with no solutions or "PNS." These are problems one should try to forget and submerge every time they happen to enter one's concerned awareness.

They are characterised by being deeply rooted in our culture, and probably in our DNA. They are chronic diseases whose chances of cure even a genetic optimist can become pessimistic about. Any attempt at tackling these problems is a mere waste of time and energy. A representative sample of PNS is our preoccupation with sex, and a parallel towards life.

2. Non-solvable problems, or "NSP." These are usually major problems that form the basis of most of our other problems. They are the ones we cannot solve, mainly because we are afraid to solve. They are taboo issues guarded by primitive castes ready to scratch any instigator. Problems in this category are usually closely related to the ones in the first category, or are a logical result of them. In this category you will find the problem of overgrowth.

3. Solvable problems that should not be solved, "SPNS." These are real problems that we train ourselves to look at as simple irritants, and do not attempt to seriously and earnestly solve. They are the kind that, if solved, will create real problems that we always

solutions

problems that we do not like to solve ourselves, and insist that others should do for us. Here you find all our problems.

This is only one classification built mainly on the factor of solvability. Different classifications built on either the psychological origins of these problems, or their historical-cultural background do exist.

However, no matter what classification one chooses, one cannot fully understand the nonsolvability of our problems unless one can bring himself to believe that, for cultural reasons, the majority of us do not necessarily differentiate between fact and fantasy. The real and the surreal blend so easily together in our life, that most of our problems go out of real focus and therefore do not fall on factual retinæ. It is not surprising, therefore, to notice that most of our problems are either in, or shifting to, the nonsolvable categories. This is so because an increasing number of our people are led to believe that our problems are created only because we try to solve them.

The same people believe that efforts made for solving these problems are fruitless, and that it is much better to spare our time and energy for a more rewarding investment. To their mind, all our attention should be directed towards preparing ourselves for another world, the ultimate world, where there is only happiness, and no problems to solve at all!

8. Major problems that should be solved, "MPS." These are problems that should be solved, before other problems can be solved. In this category you find the same list as in the first category.

Problems without solutions

problems that we do not like to solve ourselves, and insist that others should do for us. Here you find all our problems.

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(From left to right) striking shop, writings on the wall and a young man waits for a job opportunity (photos by Debbie Lovatt)

Chalking it up on the wall

By Debbie Lovatt
Special to the Jordan Times

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM
The walls in the Arab quarter of the walled city of old Jerusalem are covered in plain or colourful, artistic graffiti. On some walls the writing is in support of the various movements for the liberation of Palestine. In other places the Palestinian flag (banned by Israel) has been daubed, and there are slogans in certain areas saying "long live Saddam Hussein."

In old Jerusalem the Palestinian uprising, which is better known as intifada, now half way through its fourth year, goes unnoticed by many tourists. Very few foreign visitors to the holy land are able to read the Arabic graffiti and others are unaware of the regular half-day strikes.

Tourists can frequently be heard whilst walking down the narrow deserted streets asking each other: "Why are all the shops shut?"

They find their own answers inadequate and assume that either this is normal and the way it has always been, or if there is a fully-day strike, it is a religious holiday.

Recently there has been much speculation that the intifada was all but over. This is strongly denied by Palestinians living under the Israeli occupation. But there is an admission amongst some that the idea remains firm but the means of implementing it need to change due to the harsh economic situation provoked by the Gulf war which practically destroyed tourism in the region.

In one of the numerous souvenir shops in the old city works Abdullah, 21. He admits that business is "bad" and that the "Palestinians are suffering a lot because of the intifada and the strikes."

"We don't mind losing money through striking. It is one way to fight and if we don't fight they (the Israelis) will kill us anyway," said Abdullah, referring to the curtailed basic human rights and freedoms under the 24-year-long Israeli occupation.

Striking is a peaceful protest. Shops are rarely open all day. Most days there is a half-day stoppage with shops open for four hours from 9 a.m. Tourism previously generated enough income for people relying on this industry. This is no longer the case.

The strikes are, however, not fully adhered to. Shops may be shut and the doors locked, but goods on display outside remain for sale. Also, in some streets, shopkeepers loiter beside their pushed-to shop doors and ask passing tourists if they want to look inside.

Any tourist who buys from the Arab quarter now will almost invariably be told that he is the first customer that day or since a few days. Tourists do well. Merchants are so desperate to sell they no longer employ their infamous tactic of starting at double the actual price in an attempt to make an enormous profit.

"No one wants to come to this part of the old city now," complained Abdullah, adding: "Tourists are told things that aren't true, like this part of Jerusalem is not safe."

On the wall opposite Abdullah's shop there are two sets of graffiti. The writing in red paint is for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and the scrawl in black is in support of Fatah, the biggest, mainstream Palestinian group. There is a motif to Hamas on the next shop door. Apparently Fatah is the most popular movement.

Abdullah said: "This does

not mean that we are divided. Everyone is together in this struggle for liberation. We know that if we divide we will forget the main issue and what our fight is for."

Karim is the 30-year-old proprietor of the largest souvenir shop here. Most days he can be seen sitting outside his shop with a couple of his cronies doing nothing.

The economic situation is "bad, today is better than tomorrow," said Karim. "We have to pay 60 per cent tax on things we buy. Food is very expensive and the prices are going up all the time."

Karim speaks for many when he says: "The world has forgotten us. Why does the world help the Kuwaitis and the Kurds but not us? Why were United Nations resolutions concerning Iraq and Kuwait enforced while resolutions concerning Israel are not implemented?"

When the strike starts at 1 p.m., Karim goes home. "We are afraid to walk in the streets because they (Israeli soldiers) may take you and you don't know where you'll end up. Many people are sick and tired from the stress. It is safer to go home and stay there. We can't do anything because of the soldiers. For example, the symbol for Palestine is an olive tree. Silversmiths make them and we wear it on a chain. If the soldiers see us wearing it we get into trouble," he explained.

Majid is an out of work 23-year-old. His most recent job was as a waiter in a Dead Sea hotel. But "during the Gulf crisis no tourists came, the hotels were closing down so there was no work any more," he whispered, whilst looking around nervously and asking if he could talk in a cafe rather than in the open street.

"We don't mind losing money through striking. It is one way to fight and if we don't fight they (the Israelis) will kill us anyway," said Abdullah, referring to the curtailed basic human rights and freedoms under the 24-year-long Israeli occupation.

Majid has two brothers. One works as a nurse in a hospital in the West Bank, and the other, in the words of Majid,

"got angry with the intifada and said he didn't like hearing bad news every day so he found himself an American girlfriend and they flew to the U.S. And he's been there ever since. I also wanted to leave and go abroad to make a good future, but the Israelis wouldn't let me go. They say it's not allowed, I don't know why. They say they need proper proof I'll return."

Since the intifada started Majid has been arrested seven times. "Once," he recalled, "one afternoon, I was walking on my own in the street and the soldiers took me. They took me to gaol. They put me with about 500 people in a big place and then the soldiers beat us with sticks and guns and kicked us with their feet. After six or seven hours they let us go home."

A lot of people joke about a prison saying: "Prison is good because when they let you out you think you are free."

Like a lot of boys his age, Majid spends a lot of time on his own. "It's safer to be on your own, so I come to the cafe and sit doing nothing. Sometimes even the cafes aren't safe though. One time I was sitting here doing nothing and the soldiers came and took everyone to gaol. I don't do anything for the intifada. I don't speak about politics. In the beginning I used to, but now I'm really afraid."

All this young man wants is "to be happy, to have a nice wife, a nice house, some money and to be free to go where I want without having to always be showing my identity card and being afraid. I want the intifada finished soon with a good solution for both sides. I don't know what kind of solution though because I'm (living right here) in the middle of things."

Talking with people in the old city for only five minutes each would leave one with the impression that Palestinians have total conviction about fighting for the restoration of all of their historical land.

However, 20 minutes of conversation or so, they climb down from their positions. One shopkeeper said: "We want a separate state in the way.

West Bank, for example, because we know what the Jews went through in the past and everyone has the right to live somewhere in peace. But we cannot live like this without any rights."

The slogan "land for peace" is often voiced, but is followed by an assumption that rights will be restored concurrently with land.

Osman works with tourists as a guide around the old city and anywhere else visitors want to go. He believes that the restoration of human rights should come before land and that land would follow. "Once we have our rights we will be less frustrated and this will reduce the feelings of aggression we have," he said sipping a cup of Turkish coffee because the too wanted to talk away from the eyes of the Israeli soldiers standing at the top of the steps leading down to Damascus Gate and on top of a building overlooking it.

Fear of the Israeli soldiers and arrest runs high. After the shops close at 1 p.m. until sunset the streets contain fewer and fewer people. Only young children play outside near their homes. After sunset the Arab quarter is quiet and lone foot-steps echo in the twilight.

In the early hours of the morning the only foot-steps to be heard in the old city belong to soldiers or tourists returning to their hostels after a few drinks in the new city.

One American tourist with dark hair and non-Caucasian looks was stopped by soldiers on his way back late one night. "Show me your identification card," demanded one soldier aggressively. The tourist took out his U.S. passport. "What are you doing here? Do you know you're in the Arab quarter and it's not safe?" fired another soldier. The slightly tipsy young American explained he was staying in this part of town and he was just going back to sleep. The soldiers told him it would be better and safer if he stayed in the new city. "I study Arabic. I want to be here where it's friendly and the new city is too expensive anyway," said the student before going on his way.

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Agassi and Sabatini advance at Wimbledon

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — Andre Agassi, gaining grass-court confidence with each match, defeated Dutch teenager Richard Krajicek in straight sets on a drizzly Monday at Wimbledon.

Agassi did not lose his serve in the 7-6, 6-3, 7-6 victory. He won the first tie-breaker 7-5 and finished off the third-round match with a 7-2 tie-breaker.

The fifth seed struggled through five sets in his first-round victory over Grant Connell and needed four sets to defeat Goran Pripic in the second round. But he dominated Krajicek Monday, taking few break points in the match.

"As the days go by I'm starting to understand the concept of the grass," Agassi said. "I'm getting a much better feel as the matches go along."

Gabriela Sabatini overcame a slow start to defeat Nathalie Tauziat 7-6, 6-3, becoming the first seeded player to reach the quarterfinals. Her next opponent will be Laura Gildemeister, who upset eighth seed Katerina Matosec 5-6, 6-2, 6-3.

Sabatini, the second seed, fell behind 5-2 in the opening set

against the 11th-seeded Tauziat. But she rallied to force a tie-breaker, which Sabatini won 7-3.

The tie-breaker was interrupted by a 28-minute rain delay and the day's start of play was delayed for about an hour by light rain, but the wet weather had vanished by early afternoon.

Connors defeated

Jimmy Connors was the star in defeat, but he had a supporting cast of thousands of young fans at a very untraditional day at Wimbledon.

They applauded the ballboys and belted out soccer songs. They counted each stroke out loud during warmups. They yelled "Jim-mee, Jim-mee" at a player twice their age.

All in the staid centre court stadium. And on the middle Sunday — a traditional day of rest at the tournament since 1877.

"The atmosphere was great today," Connors said after limping off the tournament in straight sets to fellow American Derrick Rostegno. "It was a different crowd, not the traditionalists giving you the 'jolly good'."

Connors, a seven-time semifinalist whose bid to win his first Wimbledon has turned into an annual crusade, nearly ended his 1991 campaign in a second-round match against American Mahew Washington.

Naim Suleymanoglu competing in the 60-kilogram category Monday.

Injured last week after stepping on a sea urchin, Suleymanoglu is still the clear favourite. His lesser-known brother, Muhammet, is competing in the 75-kilogram class.

Italy took the gold in nine out of 15 swimming events. It also won seven silver medals and six bronze medals.

France won seven gold medals Sunday, four in swimming, two in judo and one in weightlifting.

Although Italy swept the swimming events, France's four gold medalists set new Mediterranean

The rain that had caused a huge backlog of matches during the opening five days returned briefly Sunday. But it did little to dampen the enthusiasm of 25,000 fans, some of whom stood in line overnight for tickets they normally have no chance of getting. The All England club reluctantly agreed to break tradition by playing Sunday because of the traffic jam of matches. Since no tickets had been sold in advance, they were made available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

"The committee are determined this should not be seen as a precedent," said Chris Gorringe, the club's chief executive. "It was forced upon us by the extreme weather conditions."

Though Connors lost his third-round match 7-6, 6-1, 6-4, the fans exulted in his gutsy performance. Connors refused to quit despite injuring his leg in the first set.

"For somebody who was not supposed to play Wimbledon, to do this well is really a lot of fun," said the 38-year-old Connors, who had wrist surgery last winter. Connors won Wimbledon in 1974 and 1982.

Connors, a seven-time semifinalist



Jimmy Connors

"I've done my duty here. I've given this place everything that I've had to give. I broke my back for them. I didn't mind bleeding and doing whatever it took to play my best tennis, and now I still like doing that. But this is just all gravy for me."

There were plenty of other things to cheer — Ivan Lendl rallied from two sets down to win, while John McEnroe and top seed Stefan Edberg of Sweden advanced to a fourth-round clash. Sixteen seeded men and women won their matches Sunday.

Lendl, a seven-time semifinalist whose bid to win his first Wimbledon has turned into an annual crusade, nearly ended his 1991 campaign in a second-round match against American Mahew Washington.

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Warsaw Pact formally dissolves

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia (AP) — The Warsaw Pact was dissolved Monday as representatives of the six remaining members signed documents disbanding the once-powerful alliance binding the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

"Our decision of today is indeed a historic one," said Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel. "We are saying goodbye to the era when Europe was divided by ideological intolerance."

Havel, the dissident playwright jailed after the 1968 Warsaw Pact invasion crushed the "Prague spring" reforms, presided at the last meeting of the Warsaw Pact Political Committee.

Also attending the ceremony were Polish President Lech Wałęsa, the former Solidarity leader, and delegations from Romania, Hungary, Bulgaria and the Soviet Union.

The Warsaw Pact was formed on May 14, 1955 at the height of postwar East-West tensions. West Germany had joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization days before, and the Soviets built the Warsaw Pact on fears of a third world war.

The Pact's demise came less than two years after Poland cre-

ated the first non-Communist government in the East Bloc during the summer of 1989 and started a wave of democratic revolutions through Eastern Europe.

Monday's dissolution formally cut the last of the ties that bound the satellite countries in the Soviet Union's postwar orbit. The Warsaw Pact's military structures ended on April 1, and the Soviet-led trade bloc, Comecon, was disbanded last week in Budapest.

The former East Germany had already pulled out of the Warsaw Pact by unification last October. Breaking with Moscow, Albania quit the pact in 1968 to protest the Czechoslovak invasion.

The last Soviet troops have withdrawn from Czechoslovakia and Hungary in recent weeks, but remain in Poland and Eastern Germany.

The Warsaw Pact's dissolution has left NATO to redefine its purpose. No longer in a military us-against-them confrontation, leaders of the Western alliance say NATO still needs to exist because of security concerns about ethnic tensions, waves of economic refugees and potential unrest in the Soviet Union.

The last Soviet soldier to leave on June 19 was Lt. Gen. Viktor

Stalov, commander of the Red Army in Hungary.

During the past 15 months, more than 50,000 troops, 800 tanks, 500 pieces of mobile artillery and an unknown number of short-range rockets have been pulled out of Hungary.

The moves reflect the Kremlin's shrinking military presence across Eastern Europe. The Soviet Union has agreed to withdraw its forces from Czechoslovakia by June 30. Some Red Army troops have departed Poland and Eastern Germany.

On Sunday, Hungarian politicians toasted the country's freedom at various fetes and stressed the importance of building future friendship on a new basis with the Soviet Union.

"Now with our hands unshackled, we can extend a hand in friendship to the Soviet Union," Hungarian Foreign Minister Geza Jeszennszky said in an interview Sunday for the state radio.

In an official statement released by the Hungarian news agency, the government called on Hungarians to exercise "determination and patience."

"Sovereignty not only sets us free, but also shifts on us the whole weight of responsibility for our fate," the government said.

Rebels kidnap officials in Assam

GUWAHATI, India (R) — Suspected Maoist guerrillas in the northeast state of Assam kidnapped four Indian officials Monday, police said.

They said one senior civil servant was snatched near the Assam capital of Guwahati and another in the town of Mangaldoi about 100 km (60 miles) to the north.

In Jorhat, about 250 km (155 miles) away, a medical officer of a state-run oil company and a telecommunications engineer were also kidnapped, they added.

Senior police officials said they suspected the United Front for the Liberation of Assam

(ULFA), which is fighting for an independent state, was responsible.

The kidnappers in Assam followed a series of abductions in another border state, Kashmir, where a revolt against Indian rule erupted in January 1990.

One Kashmiri group was holding an Israeli tourist who escaped from another separatist organisation after six Israeli hostages fought back against their abductors in a gunfight last Thursday.

The Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) said it was willing to hand Israeli Yair Yitzhak to a United Nations official.

U.S. panel votes on final military base closings

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal panel voted Sunday to shut down U.S. army posts in California, Indiana and Massachusetts and the massive Philadelphia Navy Shipyard in economically painful actions to shrink the defence establishment.

But the panel voted to keep open the army's Fort McClellan in Anniston, Alabama, which defence officials wanted to close, and gave a renewed lease of life to the big naval training stations in Orlando, Florida, and San Diego, California.

Representatives of communities where bases were kept open exhorted.

"I haven't paced the floor like this since my children were born," said Gerald Powell, military affairs chairman for the Chamber of Commerce of Calhoun County, Alabama, where Fort McClellan is located.

On the other hand, Sen. John F. Kerry said he was "disappointed and angered" by the panel's decision to close Fort Devens in Massachusetts and would work to overturn it.

The final list goes to President Bush. He has until July 15 to accept or reject the recommendations or ask for further revisions. An administration official predicted the president would ratify whatever the commission did.

The list would then go to Congress, which has 45 days to approve or veto, but is prohibited from making any substitutions.

In addition to Fort Devens, the commission recommended closing Fort Benjamin in Harrison in Indianapolis and Fort Ord in Seaside, California, which employs more than 16,000 civilian and military personnel. The commission also voted to close the Sacramento army depot in California.

U.S. returns base as Aquino vows to build defences

MANILA (R) — The United States, reducing troop levels in its former Asian colony, Monday returned control to Manila of one of the oldest U.S. military bases in the Philippines.

The Stars And Stripes were lowered for the last time at Camp John Hay, a rest and recreation centre which was founded in 1903 in the northern resort city of Baguio and became an important medical centre for U.S. forces during the Vietnam War.

President Corazon Aquino vowed to build up the country's deteriorating air and naval defences as U.S. Ambassador Nicholas Plat handed back the centre to Philippine control.

The camp, which will be run by the Philippine Tourism Department, was turned over to Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus as part of a general reduction in the U.S. military presence in the South

Zaire opposition determined to oust Mobutu

KINSHASA, Zaire (AP) — Nine years of detention, house arrest, banishment and torture have made opposition leader Etienne Tshisekedi even more determined not to rest until President Mobutu Sese Seko is gone.

"Everything that Mobutu created and imposed on the people of Zaire is going to go out with him," he said in an interview.

Tshisekedi was co-founder with Mobutu of the ruling popular movement for the revolution in 1966 and served as interior minister. He was arrested in 1981 after he and 13 other former National Assembly members signed a letter criticising the president.

The militants said they would demand Mobutu's ouster if their demand were not met.

A third Kashmiri militant group has held two Swedish engineers since March 31.

Philippine village survives mudflows

PORAC, Philippines (R) — Soldiers fired into the air and church bells rang out as three-metre (10-foot) high mudflows from the slopes of an erupting Philippine volcano swamped a village north of Manila.

"Boulders as big as refrigerators rolled off the mountain and the mudflow was roaring as it came down," freelance photographer Carlos Benlayo said.

"People ran for their lives. It was scary," he said of the avalanche that hit Jarong village in Porac, 70 kilometres north of Manila, on Sunday evening.

The naval air station at Chase Field in Texas was closed. Naval air stations at Meridian, Miss., Kingsville, Texas, and Whidbey Island, Washington were left open. The Defence Department had proposed that Whidbey Island be closed along with Chase Field.

The commission voted to keep open the Marine Corps recruit depot in San Diego but to close the Tustin Marine Air Station at El Toro, California.

Among air force tactical fighter bases, they closed Bergstrom in Austin, Texas, Myrtle Beach in South Carolina, and England in Alexandria, Louisiana.

The panel voted to delay the proposed reorganisation of the army corps of engineers — which its advocates said would save up to \$100 million a year by closing a number of district and division headquarters — for one year to give Congress a chance to devise its own plan. If Congress did not act, the commission's plan would take effect.

The commission voted to keep a downpour that loosened some of the millions of tonnes of volcanic ash on Pinatubo's slopes.

Sunday's mudflow followed a

downpour that loosened some of the millions of tonnes of volcanic ash on Pinatubo's slopes.

Mudslide in Japan

In Japan, a landslide of volcanic mud, rock and ash from Mount Unzen cut an eight-kilometre swathe through three towns on the southern Japanese island of Kyushu Monday, police said.

One person was slightly injured and at least 20 houses were damaged, they added.

"This has been the biggest landslide yet," said a spokesman for the Nagasaki Prefecture police.

Mount Unzen, 1,000 kilometres south west of Tokyo, awoke from a 200-year slumber last November. A major eruption on June 3 killed 41 people on its slopes.

The latest landslide, which began after heavy rain, reached the city of Shimabara.

na's human rights record.

"The serious tests our party faces now are to preserve the purity of communism ... and to build a great wall of steel to resist the 'peaceful evolution' promoted by hostile elements both at home and abroad," the newspaper said.

The Great Wall, which snakes across the mountains and plains of northern China, was built to keep out barbarian hordes and has become a symbol of Peking's self-imposed isolation.

The party has stonched the flood of bourgeois liberalism and overcome serious difficulties caused by protests and counter-revolutionary violence ... to win a new victory for socialism," an editorial said.

Thousands of people were killed or injured when tanks and troops punched their way into the centre of Peking to put down student-led protests in June, 1989, that are officially branded a "counter-revolutionary rebellion."

Peking's leaders are fighting what they call "peaceful evolution" — attempts by the West to undermine the Socialist system with capitalism and democracy.

The U.S. Congress, which is currently debating whether to renew China's most favoured nation (MFN) trade status, has angered Peking with its increasingly sharp criticism of Chi-

Angolan rivals start demobilisation

LUENA, Angola (AP) — The second stage of Angola's truce begins Monday as government and rebel troops are fused into a single 50,000-man national army and the remaining 150,000 are demobilised.

One of the gathering points will be this pretty colonial-style town where the last battle of the 16-year civil war was fought six weeks ago.

Government troops stationed in the area will gather outside the town and 26 other points around this southern African nation. Rebels will do the same at 23 other staging areas, according to the truce.

The truce entered another stage over the weekend when representatives of the ruling party paid a symbolic first visit to the headquarters of rebel leader Jonas Savimbi in the bush camp of Jamba. Joining them were members of the international commission that will monitor the peace accord, including representatives from the United States and Soviet Union.

Savimbi said after private talks Sunday that both sides were committed to the peace accord and to holding elections as scheduled in September 1992. "If the process is delayed, I think it will be almost impossible to put it on track again," he added.

"We have wounds on our body, wounds on our heart, even wounds on our soul. Now it's up to us to heal those wounds," said Lopo de Nascimento, the government's chief delegate on the ceasefire commission.

Luena, 500 miles (800 kilometres) east of the capital of Luanda, is an example of the vast changes brought by the May 31 peace accords.

Luena was the site of the final firefights, a 45-day artillery siege in which more than 500 civilians perished.

Shelling stopped on May 15 when both sides agreed to an informal ceasefire ahead of the signing of peace accords by President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos and Savimbi, leader of UNITA, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola.

Tshisekedi was co-founder with Mobutu of the ruling popular movement for the revolution in 1966 and served as interior minister. He was arrested in 1981 after he and 13 other former National Assembly members signed a letter criticising the president.

The militants said they would demand Mobutu's ouster if their demand were not met.

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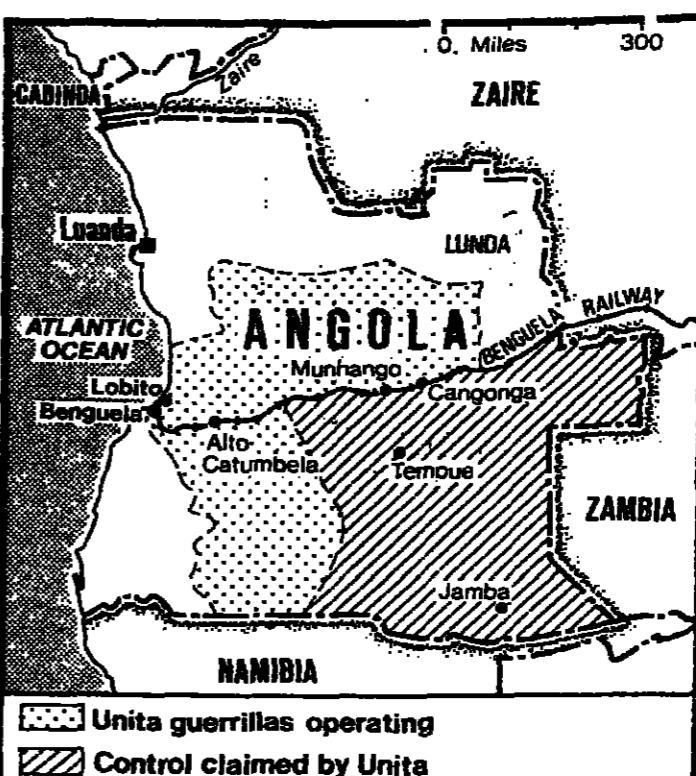
Zaire opposition determined to oust Mobutu

YAMOUSOUKRO, Ivory Coast (R) — Liberia's two rival leaders have agreed to work together to end 18 months of civil war, but opinion was divided on whether the pact is a breakthrough or a red herring.

Interim President Amos Sawyer and rebel leader Charles Taylor embraced Sunday in Ivory Coast's diplomatic capital Yamousoukro and vowed they would cooperate to end a conflict which has killed thousands and effectively partitioned Liberia.

The agreement was announced after a regional mini-summit chaired by veteran Ivorian President Felix Houphouet-Boigny, the first meeting to assemble all the major regional players in the conflict.

"Dr. Sawyer and I are Liberians," Taylor said in a statement. "We will work together to



each other with smiles and handshakes.

But there is an ever-present danger in the town, said Col. Agostinho Sanjaro, the army's chief representative to a regional commission overseeing the ceasefire.

"Here the forces are very close together, and you have the greatest concentration of troops in Angola. Fortunately, we have a good understanding here," he said.

Sanjaro is a frequent visitor to the headquarters of Brig. General Abreu, his rebel counterpart on the commission.

"We get on very well, it's all very friendly," Abreu said at his headquarters in Luena. "I think we have some of the 50,000 soldiers who for year kept the proxy war going with generous arms supplies."

They are part of a 350-member U.N. force to monitor the ceasefire.

Further international guarantees are provided by Portugal, the former colonial power that granted Angola independence in November 1975, and the United States and the Soviet Union, who for years kept the proxy war going with generous arms supplies.

The three nations mediated year-long peace talks that led to the ceasefire.

The next step in the truce is the release of all prisoners of war during August.

Meanwhile, 150,000 soldiers returning to civilian life and an estimated 400,000 Angolan refugees are expected to put further strain on aid workers already struggling to cope with 700,000 internally displaced people.

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Nevertheless, both commanders are anxious to restrict mingling between soldiers from the two armies. "At the level of the common soldier ... we think that after 16 years of war, contact could lead to irresponsible words," Abreu said.

When UNITA troopers drive into Luena in their U.S.- or South

African-supplied jeeps, they are surrounded by crowds of curious onlookers, most are children, but there are also soldiers eager to get a close look at their old enemies.

"So far, there have been no serious incidents, everything is going well," said Maj. Vladimir Mikic, a Yugoslav on a five-man United Nations verification mission based in Luena.

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Further international guarantees are provided by Portugal, the former colonial power that granted Angola independence in November 1975, and the United States and the Soviet Union, who for years kept the proxy war going with generous arms supplies.

The three nations mediated year-long peace talks that led to the ceasefire.

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